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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, April 6, 1824, from  
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,  
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,  
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Washington April ante 6 1824

Dear Sir

The claims of the State for the allowance of interest on monies borrowed & applied to the payment of the militia in the late war, has been considered by the administration in a full meeting, at the instance of the Senators & of Mr. Cabell, & the result has been that the allowance could not be made by the Executive the uniform decision in such cases having been against it. The claim will be brought before Congress and wither by me, or the members, as may be deemd most adviseable. If presented by me, as there are many states having similar claims, it is thought that I should take it up on general principles, applicable to all, & it was urgd in the admn. & apparently acquiesed in, that if a state had money in hand, as was the case with Maryland, & paid it to the militia as calld for, that the State is intitled to interest, in the principles of justice, in equal degree, as if she had borrowed the money, & paid the interest on it. It was urgd that if there was any thing peculiar in the circumstances of the claim of Virga. more favorable than of the other States,

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it might be urg'd with greater advantage if brought forward by the members, than by me: I shall make myself master of the subject and take any course safe & proper in itself, which may be most agreeable to our members, & in accord with the views of the admn. Should you have form'd any opinion on this head, it will give me pleasure to be made acquainted with it. My solicitude is the greater, from the reliance on this fund, in and of our University, on which the State & indeed our whole system of govt. so essentially depend.

You are acquainted with all the circumstances, relating to the compact with Georgia, entered into in 1802 for the extinguishment of the Indian title to land, within the State, on the condition specified. During your term, & that of Mr. Madison much land was acquir'd, as there has been since I held this office. I was also going on to press the object, with much zeal, & as I thought in

harmony with the delegation from the State, looking to the claims of humanity as well as of right on the part of the Indians, when on an earnest remonstrance from a deputation of the Cherokee nation here, against further cessions, or appropriations of money

to obtain cessions, which was communicated to the members from the State, they address'd to me a letter replete with the most bitter reproaches, express'd in the harshest language against the conduct of the Executive in the execution of that article of the compact from its date. I take this however to myself, for whom it was I presume primarily intended. Being satisfied that Mr. Crawford knew nothing of the measure, I communicated the papers to him with an intimation that if the members asked to withdraw their paper, I would permit it. He disapproved their conduct, intimated through one, to the others, his wish that they would withdraw it. They met, & decided that they would not withdraw it, nor communicate with him on the subject. Finding it necessary to bring the wishes of the State before Congress, I sent in this paper, with others with a message some few days since. I will forward to you a copy of the message & documents as soon as printed.

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I send you a copy of the Message & documents relating to the Massachusetts claim, for militia services in the late war. On great consideration of the subject, & communication with the most enlightend of the republicans of that Section, I was satisfied, that the measure, especially should it be supported by the republicans to the South, wod give great aid to the republican party, to the Eastward, & in consequence to our system of govt.

Very respectfully & sincerely your friend James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).